

# House File 297 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 297

BY GAINES

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the renewal requirements for a standard  
2 teaching license.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 272.2, subsection 1, Code 2015, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* Establish the completion of one unit  
4 of cultural competency as one of the six units required for  
5 renewal of a standard license. For purposes of this paragraph,  
6 "*cultural competency*" means awareness and understanding of  
7 the values, lifestyles, history, and contributions of various  
8 identifiable cultural groups in society; recognizing and  
9 dealing with dehumanizing biases such as sexism, racism,  
10 prejudice, and discrimination and raising awareness of the  
11 impact that such biases have on interpersonal relations;  
12 recognizing the ways in which dehumanizing biases may be  
13 reflected in instructional materials; and acquiring strategies  
14 to manage students from different cultures in a classroom  
15 setting.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill directs the board of educational examiners to  
20 establish the completion of one unit of cultural competency  
21 as one of the six units required for renewal of a standard  
22 license. For purposes of the bill, "*cultural competency*" means  
23 awareness and understanding of the values, lifestyles, history,  
24 and contributions of various identifiable cultural groups in  
25 society; recognizing and dealing with dehumanizing biases such  
26 as sexism, racism, prejudice, and discrimination and raising  
27 awareness of the impact that such biases have on interpersonal  
28 relations; recognizing the ways in which dehumanizing biases  
29 may be reflected in instructional materials; and acquiring  
30 strategies to manage students from different cultures in a  
31 classroom setting.